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IMPROVING THE FINANCIAL SITUATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Letter dated 20 October 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to bring to your attention the text of the declaration made today by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the financial situation of the United Nations (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have this letter, together with its annex, circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 117.

(Signed) Juan A. YAÑEZ-BARNUEVO

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ANNEX

Declaration on the financial situation of the United Nations made on 20 October 1995 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union

[Original: English/French/Spanish]

On the eve of the special commemorative meeting of the General Assembly on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations, the European Union expresses its deep concern about the serious financial situation of the Organization. The difficult financial situation already existing has been recently aggravated by a worsening of the cash-flow situation. These circumstances jeopardize the Organization's capacity to fulfil the mandates entrusted to it.

In this respect, the European Union wishes to recall that the proper functioning of the Organization depends above all on the political support of its Member States, as well as on the resources which they put at its disposal, and, consequently, on the payment of their financial contributions.

The European Union considers that the main cause of the serious financial situation of the United Nations - which requires a global and balanced solution - resides in the fact that certain Member States, even by lack of political will, do not discharge the financial obligations which they undertook on subscribing the Charter, and which are international obligations that legally bind each State as such.

Therefore, the European Union considers that unilateral decisions adopted by any Member State contradicting the fulfilment of its financial obligations with regard to the Organization are not acceptable.

The European Union once again calls upon all Member States to pay their arrears and meet their financial obligations to the Organization in full, on time and without conditions.